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INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0004  
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0007  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABUJA 001414

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TAGS: PREL UNSC VE NI

SUBJECT: UNSC VOTE: NIGERIA LEANING TOWARD SUPPORT FOR VZ

REF: A. STATE 20173

1B. SILSKI-HANKS EMAIL JUNE 2

Classified By: Political Counselor Russell J. Hanks for Reasons 1.4 (b and d)

11. (C) Because Foreign Minister Adeniji was unavailable, Polcouns spoke to MFA Director for International Organization Affairs Ambassador Abdul bin Rindap regarding the Guatemalan and Venezuelan candidacies for the UNSC. Rindap confirmed to PolCouns that Nigeria is leaning towards a vote for Venezuela. He said that Nigeria has excellent bilateral relations with Venezuela, including some development projects. Membership in OPEC is a factor, as well, and Rindap said that Nigeria would also consider that relationship. Further, he said, "We feel that engagement, much as our policy with Cuba, is a much better way to engender change than isolation." Besides, he said that it seemed to Nigeria that the U.S. policy towards Venezuela was a "knee-jerk negative reaction to anything Venezuelan." Polcouns reminded Rindap how strongly the U.S. supports the Guatemalan candidacy.

12. (U) Post will continue to follow this issue and will report any new developments.

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